

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

Tentative Agenda

- 9:00 **Library Opens (no early admittance)**
- 9:30 **Registration**
- 10:00 **Welcome**-Cindy Durham, *TCCY Chair*
- Why a Children's Agenda?**-The Honorable Roy Herron, Chair, Select Committee on Children and Youth
- Process of Developing a Children's Agenda**
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Discussion Groups (Choose One)**
- Juvenile Justice
 - Family Well-Being
 - Health
- 12:00 **Lunch on your own**
- (a list of downtown restaurants will be provided)
- 1:15 **Discussion Groups (Choose One)**
- Economic Security
 - Education
 - Child Welfare
- 2:15 **Reports from Discussion Groups and Next Steps**
- 3:00 **Adjourn**

Directions

From I-40, exit at Church St. and drive towards downtown. The new Main Library is located on Church Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues in downtown Nashville.

Registration

Due to the size of the Auditorium, registration will be limited to the first 200 registrants. The library auditorium is not conducive to "standing room" crowds or setting up additional chairs; therefore, walk-ins are discouraged.

To register for this event, please email Faye Mangrum at faye.mangrum@state.tn.us or call 615-741-2633. If emailing, please provide your name, title, agency, mailing address, email address and contact numbers.

Parking

Parking is available in the Nashville Public Library Garage. Entrances to the garage are on Sixth and Seventh Avenues between Church and Commerce Streets in downtown. Parking for the handicapped is available on the fourth level of the garage near the entrance to the library.

Below is a complete schedule of library parking rates:

- 2 - 2.5 hours: \$2.50
- 2.5 - 3 hours: \$3.50
- 3 - 3.5 hours: \$4.50
- More than 3.5 hours: \$5.00 (the daily maximum for those who park before 5:00 p.m. on weekdays)

Pay parking is also available at the Sheraton Hotel and a number of Central Parking Service surface lots on 6th, 7th and 8th Avenues North, and on Church Street.

Library Hours

The Main Library does not open until 9:00 a.m. The doors will remain locked until that time. **NO** early admittance will be allowed.

History

Over the past 15 years, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth has led various efforts to establish a Children's Agenda. Activities have taken a variety of forms and names, and now in 2005, TCCY is again focusing on a Children's Agenda for Tennessee.

TCCY established a series of position statements on various children's issues in the early 1990's. In 1994, representatives of a broad group of organizations convened and developed "The Children's Coalition Platform," which was endorsed by 57 organizations representing over 26,000 members.

Over the years, TCCY conducted a number of priority surveys among members of its Regional Councils on Children and Youth. These surveys included data and information about issues, and potential solutions, and helped identify concerns and recommendations of respondents.

In late 2002, TCCY convened a Children's Caucus to identify priorities for children's issues. The recommendations from the 150+ advocates were compiled and published in the TCCY newsletter, *The Advocate*, in February 2003.

Now in 2005, TCCY again seeks input for the development of a Children's Agenda to guide children's advocacy efforts in Tennessee.



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VISION AND MISSION

Vision:

All children in Tennessee have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential and are safe, healthy, nurtured and educated.

Mission:

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth advocates to improve the quality of life for children and families and provides leadership and support for child advocates.

We Believe:

1. Children are Tennessee's most precious resource, and they deserve a safe, healthy quality of life provided in the least restrictive, most appropriate living situation possible.
2. Families and Communities have the responsibility to sustain, nurture and protect their children.
3. Government is an important partner in improving the lives of children and families in Tennessee.
4. Tennessee has a responsibility to promote positive change for children and their families, especially children in need of state services.
5. Every child deserves equitable treatment under the law.
6. Services for Tennessee children should be provided through a system of care that strives for continuous improvement.
7. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth provides objective evaluations and accurate information so Tennesseans can make good decisions for children.

WHY A CHILDREN'S AGENDA?

Tennessee needs a Children's Agenda to provide a blueprint for improving the quality of life for children and families. In 2005, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will engage in and lead an effort to create this Children's Agenda with a focus on the following as guiding principles:

- **The right thing to do** should guide the Agenda.
- The Agenda should be **data-driven**.
- **Prevention** of negative outcomes should be a cornerstone of the Agenda.
- The Agenda should be **solutions oriented**.
- **Evidence-Based Best Practices** should be incorporated into recommendations/solutions.
- The Agenda should utilize a **system of care** approach based on principles of child centered, family-focused, culturally competent services provided in the least restrictive environment.

TCCY invites child advocates and children's services providers from across the state to join us as we discuss together the issues and solutions for a Tennessee Children's Agenda.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

**Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
615-741-2633
1-800-264-0904**

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

A CHILDREN'S AGENDA FOR TENNESSEE



Wednesday, August 24, 2005

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Metropolitan Nashville Public Library

615 Church Street

Nashville, TN 37219